AKU NO MESHITSUKAI
CHAPTER THREE

TRANSLATOR:
PKNOCTIS
CLEANER:
FURVUS
TYPESETTER:
PKNOCTIS
QUALITY CHECK:
PKNOCTIS AGAIN

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...LEN
YOU ARE RIN'S TWIN BROTHER.
...AND OUR SON.
HOWEVER, A FORTUNE-TELLER WHO HELPED HIS MAJESTY CREATE THIS KINGDOM, MADE A PROPHECY...
THAT THE CHILD WHO WAS BORN WITH A BIRTHMARK WOULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF THIS COUNTRY.
Chapter Three

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AND THAT
THE KINGDOM WOULD PERISH ALONG WITH THE CHILD.
A BIRTHMARK...?
I COULDN'T JUST HAVE YOU KILLED
THANKS TO THAT PART,
MY SON, THE PRINCE, DIED AS SOON AS HE WAS BORN.
THE CHILD LIVING IN THE NORTH TOWER NOW IS
NOTHING BUT A CURSED BRINGER OF DISASTER.

I WILL NOT ABIDE YOU GOING OUTSIDE,
NOR WILL I ABIDE YOU DYING
YOU WILL EXIST FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SERVING THE YELLOW KINGDOM!
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY MY KING-DOM!!!
THIS IS MY COUNTRY.
WROUGHT FROM MY TEARS AND BLOOD!!!
FATH..
..KUH!
RIN!!
NANNY
TAKE LEN TO THE NORTH TOWER.
!!

FATHER !!!
THE CURSE LAID UPON YOU AFFLICTS EVEN THOSE AROUND YOU!
FATHER, YOU'RE WRONG!!
RIN'S INJURIES ARE THE FAULT OF NONE OTHER BUT YOURSELF!
DO NOT GO NEAR RIN EVER AGAIN!
HOW IS RIN?
SHE HAS ONLY NOW JUST MANAGED TO FALL ASLEEP.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING!
WHAT I MEAN IS, WILL THERE BE ANY TRACES OF HER INJURIES?
...THERE MAY BE SOME TRACES FROM WHERE SHE HIT THE GROUND.
THEN HER WORTH WILL GO DOWN, WILL IT NOT?!
AND SHE WAS MY ONE BARGAINING CHIP WITH THE BLUE KINGDOM!!
...THE WAR STILL RAGES ON WITH THE NORTH KINGDOM ALONG OUR BORDERS.
SIRE...
THE COSTS OF WAGING WAR ARE ONLY GETTING STEEPER, AND YET THIS YEAR, THE EXCESSIVE RAINFALL HAS CAUSED CROP FAILURE EVERYWHERE!!
...EVER SINCE HE WAS BORN, IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE BAD THING AFTER ANOTHER...
...HE AND RIN HAVE BEEN KEEPING IN TOUCH BY USING THE ROYAL PASSAGEWAY, HAVEN'T THEY?
MY QUEEN...

DON'T LEAVE HIM IN THE NORTH TOWER.
BUT TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY AND SHUT HIM AWAY THERE, FOR ME
SOMEWHERE WHERE HIS CURSE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH US...
SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...
FOR ME, MY QUEEN...
I'M COMING IN
!?
...LEN.

YOU WILL NO LONGER STAY HERE
YOU WILL BE MOVED TO A REGION EAST OF HERE
...THEN I WON'T BE ABLE
TO SEE RIN ANYMORE?!
...LEN,
YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG,
EXCEPT TO BE BORN WITH SUCH A MARK
HOWEVER, FROM NOW ON, RIN WILL ALSO HAVE TO SHOULDER A HEAVY BURDEN.

THE PRINCE IS AN AMBITIOUS MAN, AND THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT HE MAY TRY AND DO TO RIN
THE SAME GOES FOR OUR NEIGHBORING KINGDOMS !
HIS MAJESTY IS PLANNING ON CROWNING RIN AS THE NEXT SOVEREIGN.
INSTEAD OF HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, THE PRINCE
THE YELLOW KINGDOM IS POWERFUL
BUT SUCH POWER CAN BE TAKEN IN A FLASH
AND IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE EVEN OUR ALLY, THE BLUE KINGDOM WILL BETRAY US

BUT THAT KIND OF LIFE IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A CHILD LIKE RIN!
RIN, WHO WILL COME TO STAND AT THE VERY PINNACLE OF THIS KINGDOM,
MUST CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH EVERY BREATH SHE TAKES
HIS MAJESTY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THAT RIN IS DIFFERENT FROM HIM!!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS KINGDOM
IF IT'S TO BE DESTROYED, IT CAN BE DESTROYED FOR ALL I CARE
HOWEVER ...

I WANT TO PROTECT RIN.
I CAN LEAVE THE ROYAL PALACE, RIGHT?
YOUR HIGHNESS
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR AID.
SO IF IT'S FOR HER SAKE, I'LL DO ANY-THING.

I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE!
GIVE ME THE KNOWLEDGE AND STRENGTH I NEED TO PROTECT RIN!
RIN GAVE ME MEANING TO THIS WORLD...
TO ME ...
RIN IS MY WHOLE WORLD!!

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YOU..
ARE MAKING A MISTAKE
HOWEVER
THE ONES WHO SHUT YOU AWAY IN SUCH A WRONGFUL WORLD,
WAS US
I WILL ARRANGE AN INSTRUCTOR FOR YOU WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE KING.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO US, WILL YOU PROTECT RIN?!
WITHOUT FAIL.
PITTER PATTER

HAHAHA
IT'D BE GREAT IF THAT INTERFERING LITTLE BRAT WOULD GO AND DIE ALREADY!
WHAT A PITY!!
LOOKS LIKE PRINCESS RIN DIDN'T KICK THE BUCKET AFTER ALL!
PANT
I HEARD THE HORSE WAS BEING UNRULY
DON'T TELL ME... MY PRINCE, DID YOU SOMEHOW ARRANGE THAT...?
NAH, I DIDN'T DO THAT.
ALTHOUGH I DO ADMIT I'VE BEEN WANTING TO.
BUT WE ALL THOUGHT THAT YOU, THE PRINCE, WOULD BE BECOMING THE NEXT KING!
MY OLDER BROTHER HAS DECIDED THAT HIS DAUGHTER WILL BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE THRONE.
THAT GIRL...

WOULD BE BETTER OFF DEAD!!
RIN?!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?!

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RIN
NO, NO!!!!
NO...
...NO..
IN FACT, I CAN'T SAY HOW LONG IT'LL BE!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE
...!
SFX: THROB
...KUH
RIN, CALM DOWN!
YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF EVEN MORE!
...NO...
!!!

DON'T CRY...
I FOUND OUT ABOUT ANOTHER SIDE OF THIS PALACE
BY WAY OF THIS PASSAGE
THE PRINCESS IS ONLY A CHILD
IF YOU GIVE HER A NICE CREAM COOKIE
SHE'LL HAPPILY EAT IT, NO?
BUT...SHE WON'T EAT ANYTHING WE OFFER...
JEEZ!! WHAT AN IRRITATING BRAT!!
IF SHE'D JUST GET OUT OF MY WAY, EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE!!
...LEN,
DID YOU KNOW
THAT I WON'T EAT ANYTHING BESIDES THE SNACKS NANNY MAKES FOR ME?

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SINCE NANNY'S BRIOCHE IS THE BEST
BECAUSE YOUR HAND HAS BECOME SO COLD
BECAUSE MY POWERLESSNESS FRUSTRATES ME
I'LL DO ANYTHING
IF IT'LL MAKE YOU SMILE HAPPILY AGAIN

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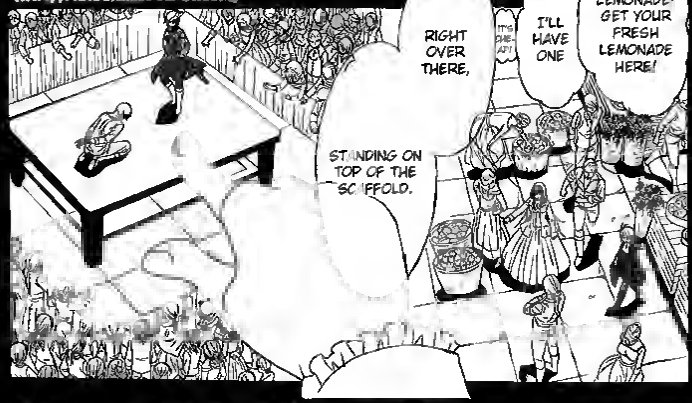
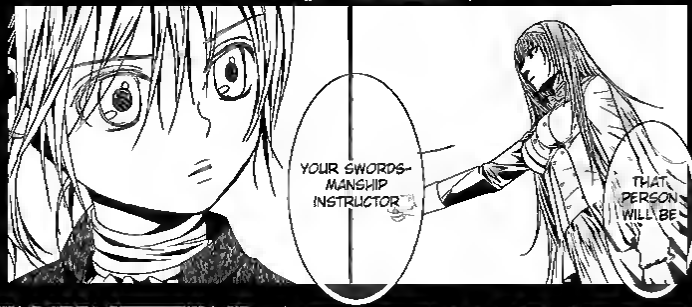
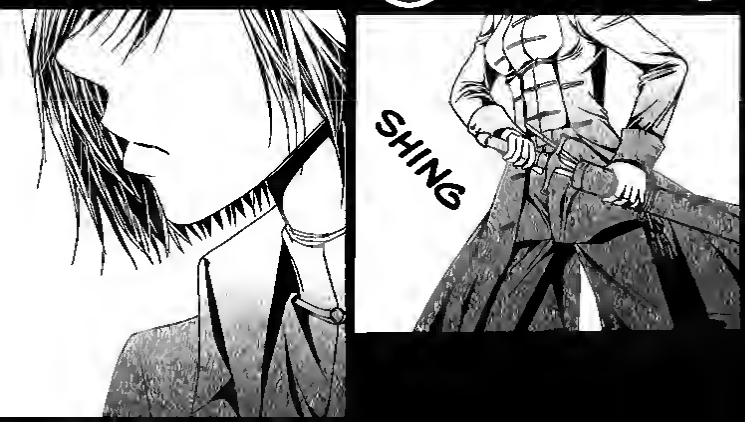
*TN: SENSEI: TEACHER. IT INDICATES RESPECT

*T/N: IN JAPANESE, IT IS NOT USUALLY APPROPRIATE TO CALL SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW WITHOUT AN HONORIFIC SUFFIX ("-SAN"). IT, CHEO, AS SUCH, SHE IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHING THAT HE IS HER STUDENT. SHE'S STILL TALKING TO HIM FORMALLY THOUGH, SO SHE IS ALSO GIVING HIM RESPECT.

...SO A WOMAN IS THE LORD HERE...
ARE YOU AN EARL?
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
NO...
"SINCE YOU ARE MY STUDENT, I WILL SIMPLY CALL YOU "LEN"."
I TRUST YOU FIND THIS ACCEPTABLE.
EXCUSE ME...
LUKA... SENSEI...
WILL YOU BE THE ONE TEACHING ME SWORDSMANSHIP?
NO, NOT ME.
I HAVE SOMEONE ELSE IN MIND TO TEACH YOU THAT.
COME WITH ME.
I WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO EACH OTHER.


LEMONADE! GET YOUR FRESH LEMONADE HERE!
I'LL HAVE ONE
IT'S DELICIOUS!
RIGHT OVER THERE,
STANDING ON TOP OF THE SCAFFOLD.


THAT PERSON WILL BE
YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTOR


SHING

SFX: THUD

AN UNSKILLED EXECUTIONER
IS UNABLE TO DECAPITATE WITH A SINGLE BLOW
THEY HACK AWAY AT THE NECK OVER AND OVER
AND EVEN THEN, ARE STILL UNABLE TO FULLY DO THE JOB
THE SINNER, THEN, CRIES OUT IN PAIN
"LET ME DIE!!!"

LUKA!!
KNOWN AS THOSE OF THE "RED ARMOR"
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A FAMILY OF EXECUTIONERS
SLOWLY,
THE COGS OF FATE
IN THE WAY OF THE SWORD
SHE WILL BE YOUR INSTRUCTOR
HER SWORD, HOWEVER
DOES NOT DELIVER PAIN TO SINNERS
I WONDER IF YOU COULD CALL IT MERCIFUL?
HER NAME IS ME!
CONTINUE TO TURN

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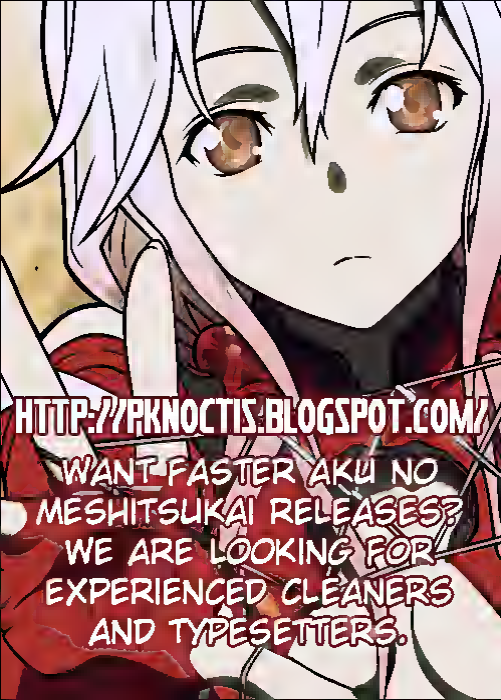
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WANT FASTER AKU NO MESHITSUKAI RELEASES? WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED CLEANERS AND TYPESETTERS.